

### **What is claimed is:**

*Int'l. 1.* A method of ordering a part for a xerographic apparatus comprising:

monitoring electronically a condition of a replaceable part in a first device, the replaceable part having: a first condition upon installation; at least one intermediate condition after use; and a third condition when a replacement part is substantially necessary; and

electronically sending a signal to a second device, the signal automatically electronically offering to purchase a replaceable part upon identification of at least one of the first condition, second condition, and third condition in the replaceable part using an electronic signature.

2. The method of **claim 1** further comprising predicting a condition of the part prior to the electronically sending the signal.

3. The method of **claim 2** further comprising receiving electronically an acceptance of the offer to purchase the replaceable part.

*✓ w/a2* 4. The method of **claim 2** further comprising installing the  
replaceable part prior to occurrence of the third condition.

5. The method of **claim 1** further comprising delivering the replaceable part to the first device when monitoring indicates the condition of the part is between about the first condition and the third condition.

6. The method of **claim 3** further comprising providing information relating to the signal to at least one of a user, a supplier, and a third party.

7. The method of **claim 6** wherein the information relates to at least one of: (1) a present condition of the part; (2) a prediction of a future condition of the part; (3) an inquiry; and (4) an offer to purchase.

8. The method of **claim 1** further comprising:  
using a sensor and software system to perform monitoring and predicting of a condition of the part.

*Anta 7* 9. The method of **claim 1** wherein at least one of the first device as the second device are interactive.

10. The method of **claim 1** further comprising:  
displaying a purchase order screen, the purchase order screen including data relating to the part; and  
sending the data electronically to a supplier of the part.

11. The method of **claim 10** further comprising:  
sending data to the supplier after a user enters data.

12. The method of **claim 6** wherein the information further relates to at least one of: (1) present supply of a consumable; (2) wear of a consumable; (3) usage of the part; (4) rate of depletion of a consumable; (5) rate of wear of the consumable; (5) predicted date of depletion of the consumable; (5) a predicted date of need of a consumable; (6) delivery schedule of a consumable; and (5) statistical data relating to a part.

13. The method of **claim 1** further comprising:  
launching a communications link to access a URL address, the URL address defined by a condition of the part.

*Part a* 14. A method of ordering a part for an apparatus comprising:

identifying electronically a condition in an apparatus; and automatically launching an electronic communications to initiate at least one of an inquiry and an offer to purchase to a supplier based on the condition.

15. A method of ordering a part for a marking device comprising:

sensing a condition at a consumable part in the marking device, the marking device adapted to at least one of identify and predict a code indicative of a threshold of a consumable; and

launching an electronic communication to access a computer at an address defined by the condition for ordering a replacement for the consumable part

16. The method of ordering a part of **claim 15** wherein the consumable part is functionally associated with a sensor and software system to sense and predict a condition in the device and to electronically communicate information, the sensor and software system including logic adapted to initiate a purchase order defined by the condition.

*Part as 7*

17. A method of ordering a part for an imaging apparatus comprising:

identifying electronically a condition in a consumable part, the consumable part including at least one an ink cartridge, toner cartridge, photoreceptor cartridge, paper, and printhead, the consumable part having a first condition upon installation, at least one intermediate condition after use, and a third condition when a replacement of the consumable part is substantially necessary; and

using a software and sensor system associated with the apparatus for at least one of: (a) electronic monitoring of the condition of the consumable part; (b) electronic predicting of the condition of the consumable part; and after at least one of (a) and (b); (c) automatically launching an electronic communications to initiate at least one of an inquiry and an offer to purchase a replacement for the consumable part at an occurrence or prediction of at least one of the first condition, intermediate condition, and ~~third condition.~~

18. The method of ordering a part of **claim 17** further comprising receiving electronically an acceptance of the offer to purchase.

19. The method of ordering a part of **claim 17** wherein the communication further relates to at least one of: (1) present supply of a consumable; (2) wear of a consumable; (3) usage of the part; (4) rate of depletion of a consumable; (5) rate of wear of the consumable; (5) predicted date of depletion of the consumable; (5) a predicted date of need of a consumable; (6) delivery schedule of a consumable; and (5) statistical data relating to a part.

20. The method of ordering a part of **claim 17** further comprising:

launching a communications link to access a URL address, the URL address defined by a condition of the consumable part.